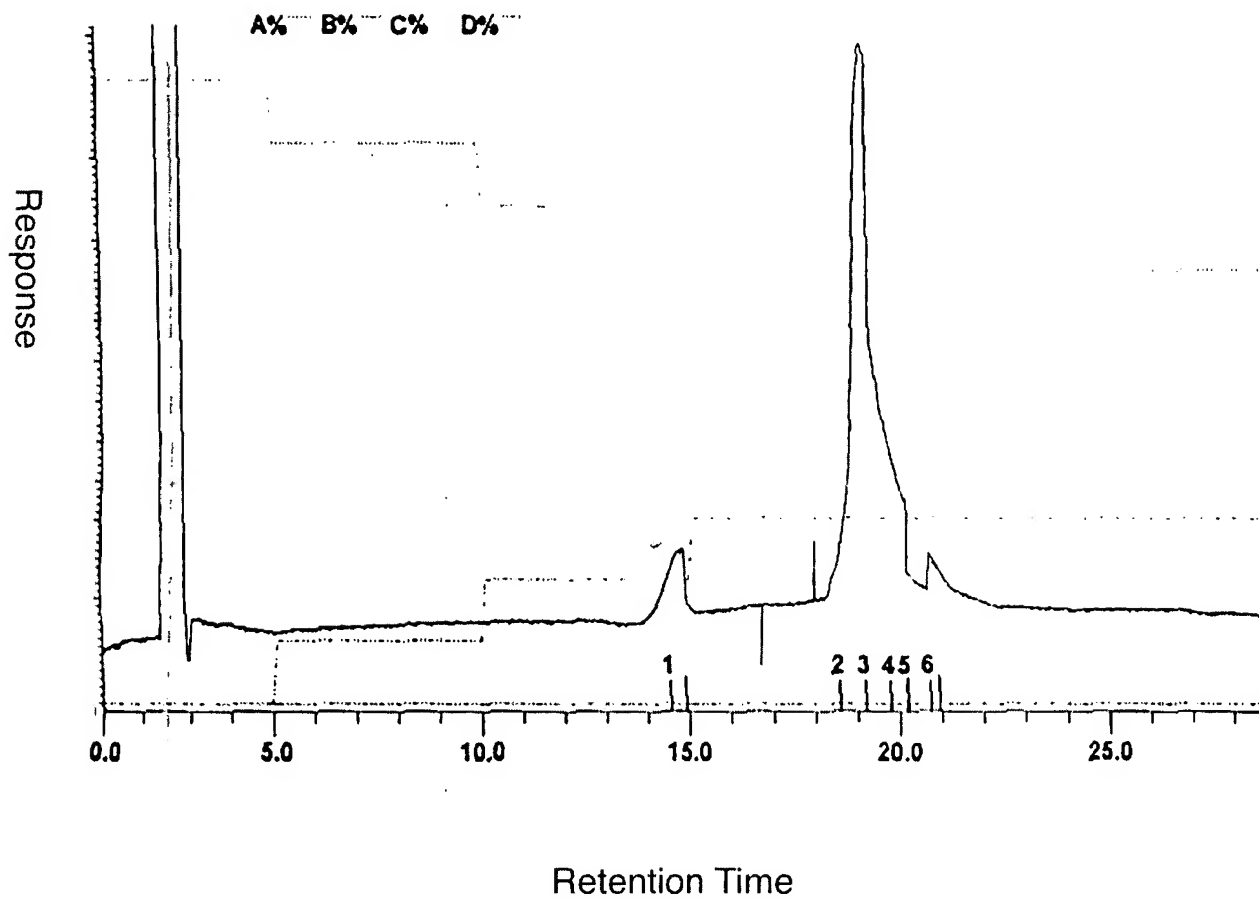
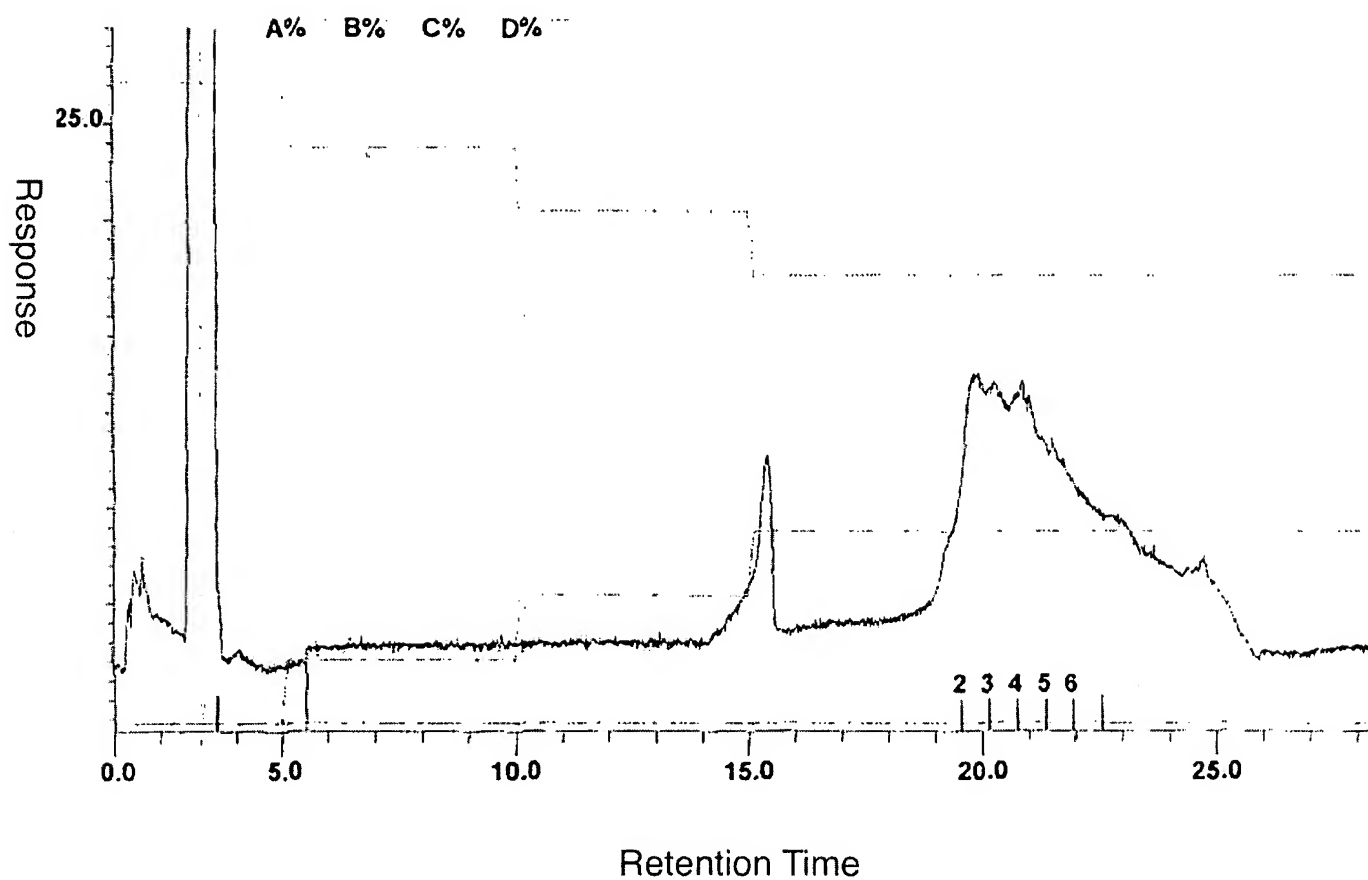


Figure 2



X and Y axis labels have been added to the figure

Figure 3



X and Y axis labels have been added to the figure

I. TITLE

Pre-filled Columns for Flash Chromatography and solid-phase extraction with superior Higher Separating Power.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

II-1 Field of the invention.

The present invention relates to pre-filled columns for flash chromatography and Solid Phase Extraction (SPE). These columns, which are filled with spherical and porous silica gel or with semi-spherical and porous silica gel, allow to a considerable increase in the quality of the purification of synthetic products by means of flash chromatography. The technique of flash chromatography can particularly be applied to the fast purification under low and medium pressure of synthetic products in pharmaceutical, cosmetic, agro-chemical and biotechnology research.

II-2 State of the art of flash chromatography

The technique of chromatography was discovered more than 100 years ago by a Russian chemist named TSWETT. This chemist described the separating power of alumina oxide placed in a glass column on which he deposited chlorophyll. He observed the descending migration of color rings along the glass column.

Since his discovery, numerous analytical, preparative, and industrial applications have been developed.

Gas chromatography (GC) and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) can be cited as being among the most important applications. Flash chromatography was born from the need to purify synthetic products rapidly and simply in a laboratory context and in quantities comprised between 10 mg to 100 g.

Flash chromatography differs from preparative HPLC essentially by in the granularity of the silica gel, namely the granules are bigger in flash chromatography, and provide a simpler and more rapid application of flash chromatography.

Pre-filled flash chromatography columns filled with irregular-sized porous silica gel and with granules of ~~40-60 μ or 20-40 μ~~ 40-60 μ m or 20-40 μ m, have been on the market for several years. These new chromatography columns brought an enhanced ease of use

through immediate application. However, these columns did not bring any advantage in terms of the quality of separation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In the new invention that we described herein, we have increased in a very significant manner the separating properties of flash chromatography columns have been increased significantly, while maintaining the ease of use of the technique as well as combined with a low working counter-pressure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the invention, there are provided columns for flash chromatography and SPE with spherical and porous silica gel that have granules comprised between 3 and 45 μm and pores comprised between 30 and 300 Å. According to another aspect of the invention, there are provided columns for flash chromatography and SPE with semi-spherical and porous silica gel having granules comprised between 3 and 45 μm and pores comprised between 30 and 300 Å.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANUFACTURE OF PRE-FILLED COLUMNS FOR FLASH CHROMATOGRAPHY AND SPE

The manufacture of a A pre-filled column for flash chromatography and for SPE is manufactured obtained by filling a tube or a syringe or any other suitable body that can fulfill the function, on which a frit (filter) is attached below to prevent the silica gel from leaving.

A quantity of spherical and porous silica gel or with of semi-spherical and porous silica gel is poured.

A second frit is then placed with force on top of the bed that has been obtained created.

In order to obtain have good homogeneity in the filling of the tube, syringe or other suitable body and to eliminate preferential paths that are detrimental to the technique, the column is made to vibrate while, at the same time, the upper frit is pushed by means of an appropriate object so as to achieve a homogenous compression on the entire surface of the frit.

~~One can also obtain a~~ A homogenous packing can also be obtained though use of liquids or gasses.

After the dead volume has been ~~reabsorbed~~, ~~we obtain~~ the flash chromatography column that is ready for use.

It is possible to improve the quality of the compression by passing a solvent through the column until the upper bed of the column has stabilized.

Example 1: ~~Manufacture of a~~ A column for flash chromatography or SPE is manufactured with 50 g of spherical and porous silica gel having granules of ~~25-40 μ m~~ 25-40 μ m.

Column length: 85 mm.

Silica gel: 50 g of spherical and porous silica gel of 70Å pore size.

Recipient: syringe body of 150 ml volume and a diameter of 37 mm

Take the 150 ml syringe body and place a porous frit in the bottom of the syringe body.

Pour 50 g of spherical and porous silica gel in the column.

Add a second porous frit on top of silica bed.

Press on the top frit while vibrating the whole with vibrator or a vibrating table.

Wait until the bed has stabilized and does not move downwards anymore.

a) Results obtained

Operational conditions:

Eluent: Ethyl acetate/ Hexane.

Flow: 35ml/min.

Detection: UV 254 nm

Gradient: A: Hexane / B: Ethyl acetate.

FIG. 1 illustrates the main substance that has been injected.

Time	% A	% B
0	100	0
5	100	0
5.1	90	10
10	90	10
10.1	80	20
15.0	80	20

FIG. 2. illustrates the chromatogram obtained.

Number of plates on the main peak: 684.

K': 10.

Working pressure: 16 psi.

Asymmetry of main peak: 1.75.

FIG. 3 shows, for the purpose of comparison, a chromatogram of a same column and in the same conditions, but filled with irregular silica gel, granules of 15-35 μm , in accordance with the prior art and ~~granules of 15-35 μm~~ .

Number of plates of the main peak: 156.

K': 10.5.

Working pressure: 43 psi.

Asymmetry of main peak: 5.88.

c) Comparative table

	Column with spherical and porous silica gel	Column with irregular and porous silica gel
Number of plates	684	156
K'	10	10.5
Working pressure	16 psi	43 psi
Asymmetry of the main peak	1.75	5.88

~~Résumé of the invention: new pre-filled columns for flash chromatography and SPE with spherical and porous silica gel or semi-spherical and porous silica gel having a superior separating power.~~

Although specific embodiments of the invention have been described and illustrated, the invention is not to be limited to the specific forms or arrangements of parts so described and illustrated. The invention is limited only by the claims.